Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the sentence on page 1 after the title with the following new sentence:

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 10/061,086, filed January 31, 2002, ~~pending~~ abandoned.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 12 with the following new paragraph:

Referring now to Figure 5, an alternative emebodiment is seen in which the buoyancy system 24 comprises buoyancy units 50, 52, 54, and 56, that are slid radially between supports 33. Buoyancy unit 50 is shaped such that a spacc 55 is created between the buoyancy units, supports 33, and flanges 35. As will become more clear with reference to an example air-handling system, to be described below, space 55 includes, in some embodiments, a conduit for injecting air into each buoyancy unit ~~50-56~~ 50, 52, 54 and 56, and a manifold, or means for evacuating water. It will be understood that while four buoyancy units are shown in the example of Figure 5, other numbers of buoyancy units are used in alternative embodiments of the invention. In some embodiments, for example, there are more buoyancy units than there are support members 33. In other words, in some embodiments, buoyancy unit 50 comprises multiple, independent buoyancy units, for redundancy, ease of manufacturing, smaller tooling, and lower overall costs.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9 with the following new paragraph:

Referring now to Figure 12, in one specific embodiment of the invention, buoyancy modules ~~50-56~~ 50, 52, 54, 56 comprise a composite buoyancy module 1005 having stem side female recesses ~~1001a-1001f~~ 1001A-1001F on the stem side 1003 of module 1005. As seen in Figure [[3]] 12, female recesses ~~1001a-1001f~~ 1001A-1001F mate with rings ~~3a-3f~~ 3A-3F surrounding stem 31, as shown in Figure 3. Such a connection transfers the buoyancy force of the buoyancy module to stem 31. Thermosetting or other curable compounds are ~~use~~ used in some embodiments to act as a liquid shim and to fill spaces or gaps between module 1005 and stem 31. Thermosetting and/or compounding reduces differential movement between the stem and the module 1005 and also a one-dimensional lock to assist in the transfer of buoyancy from the module to the stem 31.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 18 with the following new paragraph:

According to still another aspect of the invention, in some embodiments in which multiple buoyancy modules are inserted between supports 33 (e.g. Figures 3-5), the modules ~~50-56~~ 50, 52, 54 and 56 and supports 33 are designed such that the outer surfaces of the modules ~~50-56~~ 50, 52, 54 and 56 contact supports 33 in a substantially opposing manner, thus reducing out-of-plane loading.

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